

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of editing a video sequence comprising at least one clip, each clip being formed at least by video content captured between two points in time and thereby defining having a determinable duration of the clip, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting duration characteristic data associated with the duration of each clip of from the sequence, ~~the characteristic data including at least time data related to the corresponding duration;~~

processing the duration characteristic data of the at least one clip according to at least one template of editing rules to form editing instruction data, the template indicating at least predetermined edited segment durations ~~editing rules comprising at least a predetermined cutting format~~ configured to form output edited segments from the at least one clip, each output edited segment being based on one of the [[a]] plurality of predetermined edited segment durations; and

processing the at least one clip of the video sequence according to the editing instruction data to form an output edited sequence of the output edited segments.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the editing rules establish a cutting format that provides for the formation of the output edited segments,

~~each comprising one of~~ each being of one of at least a first duration and a second duration and for the discarding of at least a portion of each clip.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds and the second duration is between 2 and 20 seconds.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 wherein the first duration is about 4 seconds and the second duration is about 10 seconds.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein the output edited sequence is formed from a time sequential combination of the segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of the first duration and the second duration.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5 wherein the predetermined cutting pattern comprises alternate first duration segments and second duration segments.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each clip prior to formation of the output edited segments from a remainder of the clip.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7 wherein the third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one of the clips from which at least two of the output edited segments are to be formed, the internal interval separating portions of the clip from which the two output edited segments are formed.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein the fourth duration is between 1 and 5 seconds.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein the formation of the output edited segments comprises cutting a portion from at least one of the clips and modifying a reproduction duration of the portion to correspond with one of the first duration or the second duration.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein the cutting and modifying are performed when the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of the first and second durations.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 wherein the predetermined range is from 70% to 200% of the one of the first and second durations.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein the modifying comprises multiplying the reproduction time of the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of the first or second durations.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein the editing rules comprise an edited duration during which the output edited segments are to be reproduced and from which a number of the output edited segments is determined based upon the first and second durations.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the segment durations are determined using a beat period of a sound track to be associated with the output edited sequence.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the duration characteristic data comprises data accompanying the video sequence.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the editing rules include incorporating at least one title matte as part of the output edited sequence.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19 wherein the title matte is formed and incorporated according to a sub-method comprising the steps of:

examining ~~the~~ time data associated with the duration data for each clip to identify those of the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group as a title location;

for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further characteristic data to generate the insert title including at least a text component; and

incorporating the insert title into the sequence at the title location.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, where the program is configured to make a computer execute a procedure to edit a video sequence comprising at least one clip, each ~~[[said]]~~ clip being formed at least by video content captured between two points in time and thereby defining having a determinable duration of the clip, said program being configured to implement the steps of:

extracting ~~from the sequence characteristic~~ duration data associated with the duration of each the clip of the video sequence, ~~the characteristic data including at least time data related to the corresponding duration~~;

processing the duration characteristic data of the at least one clip according to at least one template of editing rules to form editing instruction data, the template indicating at least predetermined edited segment durations ~~editing rules comprising at least a predetermined cutting format~~ configured to form output edited segments from the at least one clip, each output edited segment being based on one of the [[a]] plurality of predetermined output edited segment durations; and

processing the at least one clip of the video sequence according to editing instruction data to form an output edited sequence of the output edited segments.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 22 wherein the editing rules include a cutting format that provides for the formation of the output edited segments, ~~each comprising one of~~ each being of one of at least a first duration and a second duration and for discarding of at least a portion of each clip, and wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each clip prior to formation of the output edited segments from a remainder of the clip.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 23 wherein the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds, the second duration is between 2 and 20 seconds, and the third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 23 wherein an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one of

the clips from which at least two of the output edited segments are to be formed, the internal interval separating portions of the clip from which the two output edited segments are formed, the fourth duration being between 1 and 5 seconds.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 23 wherein the formation of the output edited segments comprises cutting a portion from at least one [[the]] clip and modifying a reproduction duration of the portion to correspond with one of the first duration or the second duration.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 27 wherein the cutting and modifying are performed when the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of the first and second durations, the predetermined range being from 70% to 200% of the one of the first and second durations.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 27 wherein the modifying comprises expanding the reproduction time of the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of the first or second durations.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 23 wherein the editing rules comprise an edited duration during which the output edited segments are to be reproduced and from which a number of the output edited segments is determined based upon the first and second durations.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 23 wherein the output edited sequence is formed from a time sequential combination of the segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of the first duration and the second duration, the predetermined cutting pattern comprising one of (a) alternate first duration segments and second duration segments or (b) a pseudo-random selection of first duration segments and second duration segments.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the segment durations are determined using a beat period of a sound track to be associated with the output edited sequence.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 22 wherein the duration characteristic data comprises data selected from the group consisting of:

data accompanying the video sequence; and

data formed by ~~analysing~~ analyzing the video sequence, the ~~analysing~~ analyzing comprises at least one of time analysis, image analysis, sound analysis and motion analysis.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 22 wherein the editing rules includes incorporating at least one title matte as part of the output edited sequence, the title matte being formed and incorporated according to a sub-method comprising the steps of:

examining ~~the~~ time data associated with the duration data for each clip to identify those of the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group as a title location;

for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further the characteristic data to generate the insert title including at least a text component; and

incorporating the insert title into the sequence at the title location.

35. (Currently Amended) A visual image editing system comprising:

supply means for providing a video sequence comprising at least one clip, each ~~[[said]]~~ clip being formed at least by video content captured between two points in time and thereby defining each having a determinable duration of the clip;

extracting means for extracting ~~from said sequence~~ duration characteristic data associated with the duration of each ~~[[said]]~~ clip of the video sequence; ~~said characteristic data including at least time data related to the corresponding said duration~~;

processing means for processing [[said]] the duration characteristic data of the at least one clip according to at least one predetermined template of editing rules to form editing instruction data, [[said]] the template indicating at least predetermined edited segment durations ~~editing rules comprising at least a predetermined cutting format~~ configured to form output edited segments from the at least one clip each based on one of a plurality of predetermined output edited segment durations, [[said]] the editing rules establishing a cutting format that provides ~~providing~~ for the formation of [[said]] the output edited segments ~~each comprising one of each being of one of~~ at least a first duration and a second duration and for discarding of at least a portion of each [[said]] clip, and wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each [[said]] clip prior to formation of [[said]] the output edited segments from a remainder of [[said]] the clip;

editing means for editing the at least one clip of the [[said]] video sequence according to [[said]] the editing instruction data to form an output edited sequence of [[said]] the output edited segments; and

output means for receiving [[said]] the output edited sequence.

36. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35 wherein said supply means comprises a storage arrangement configured to couple said video sequence to said extraction means and said output means comprises at least one of a display device by which [[said]] the output edited sequence is viewable and a further storage arrangement for storing [[said]] the output edited sequence.

37. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 36 wherein [[said]] the duration characteristic data comprises metadata, said extracting means forming a metadata file of [[said]] the video sequence based upon each [[said]] clip, [[said]] the metadata file forming an input to said processing means, at least said processing means comprising a computer device operable to interpret [[said]] the metadata file according to [[said]] the rules to form [[said]] the edit instruction data.

38. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35 wherein [[said]] the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds, [[said]] the second duration [[being]] is between 2 and 20 seconds and [[said]] the third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds and an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one of [[said]] the clips from which at least two of [[said]] the output edited segments are to be formed, [[said]] the internal interval separating portions of [[said]] the clip from which [[said]] the two output edited segments are formed, [[said]] the fourth duration being between 1 and 5 seconds.

39. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35 wherein said editing means comprises means for cutting a portion from at least one [[said]] clip and modifying a reproduction duration of [[said]] the portion to correspond with one of [[said]] the first duration or [[said]] the second duration.

40. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 39 wherein said cutting and modifying are performed when [[said]] the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of [[said]] the first and second durations, [[said]] the predetermined range being from 70% to 200% of [[said]] the one of [[said]] the first and second durations.

41. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 39 wherein [[said]] the modifying comprises expanding the reproduction time of [[said]] the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of [[said]] the first or second durations.

42. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35 wherein said processing means comprises a store of [[said]] the editing rules, one of [[said]] the editing rules comprising an edited duration during which [[said]] the output edited segments are to be reproduced and from which said processing means is configured to determine a number of [[said]] the output edited segments based upon [[said]] the first and second durations.

43. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35 wherein said editing means forms [[said]] the output edited sequence from a time sequential combination of [[said]] the segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of [[said]] the first duration and [[said]] the second duration.

44. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 43 wherein [[said]] the predetermined cutting pattern comprises one of (a) alternate first duration segments and second duration segments and (b) a pseudo-random selection of first duration segments and second duration segments.

45. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35 wherein [[said]] the editing rules comprise incorporating at least one title matte as part of [[said]] the output edited sequence, said system further comprising means for forming and incorporating [[said]] the title matte into [[said]] the output edited sequence, said means for forming and incorporating comprising:

associating means for examining ~~said~~ time data associated with the duration data for each [[said]] clip to identify those of [[said]] the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, [[said]] the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying means for identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each [[said]] group as a title location;

characteristic data examining means for examining, for at least one [[said]] title location, at least one of corresponding [[said]] time data and further [[said]] characteristic data to generate [[said]] the insert title including at least a text component; and

means for incorporating [[said]] the insert title into [[said]] the sequence at [[said]] the title location.

46. (Currently Amended) A method of editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips each formed by video content captured between a corresponding commencement of recording and a corresponding cessation of recording and distinguished by associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which ~~the~~ each clip was recorded, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) examining the time data for each clip to identify those of the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

(b) identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group as a title location;

(c) for at least one [[said]] title location, examining at least one of corresponding tune data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

(d) incorporating the insert title into the sequence at the title location.

47. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46 wherein the predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when the period between the real-time conclusion of one of the clips and the real-time commencement of the following clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46 wherein the further data comprises user provided data.

49. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46 wherein the further data comprises generated data formed by ~~analysing~~ analyzing the corresponding clip and step (c) comprises examining the data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, the title components collectively forming the insert title.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein the title components are selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, the title components being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of the data.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 wherein the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to the title components to modify a visual impact of the insert title.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in the insert title.

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46 wherein the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of the insert title upon the clip.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, where the program is configured to make a computer execute a procedure to editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips each formed by video content captured between a corresponding commencement of recording and a corresponding cessation of recording and distinguished by associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which ~~the~~ each clip was recorded, said program being configured to implement the steps of:

(a) examining the time data for each [[the]] clip to identify those of the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

(b) identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group as a title location;

(c) for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

(d) incorporating the insert title into the sequence at the title location.

56. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 55 wherein the predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when the period between the real-time conclusion of of one the clips and the real-time commencement of the following clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

57. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 55 wherein the further data comprises user provided data.

58. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 55 wherein the further data comprises generated data formed by ~~analysing~~ analyzing the corresponding clip and step (c) comprises examining the data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, the title components collectively forming the insert title.

59. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 58 wherein the title components are selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, the title components being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of the data.

60. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 59 wherein the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to the title components to modify a visual impact of the insert title.

61. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 58 wherein the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in the insert title.

62. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 55 wherein the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of the insert title upon the clip.

63. (Currently Amended) A system for editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips each formed by video content captured between a corresponding commencement of recording and a corresponding cessation of recording and distinguished by associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which ~~said~~ each clip was recorded, said system comprising:

associating means for examining ~~[[said]]~~ the time data for each ~~[[said]]~~ clip to identify those of ~~[[said]]~~ the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, and for arranging associable ones of ~~[[said]]~~ the clips into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying means for identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each ~~[[said]]~~ group as a title location,

examining means for examining, for at least one ~~[[said]]~~ title location, at least one of corresponding ~~[[said]]~~ time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

editing means for incorporating ~~[[said]]~~ the insert title into ~~[[said]]~~ the sequence at ~~[[said]]~~ the title location.

64. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 63 wherein clips within each ~~[[said]]~~ group are sequentially associable by ~~[[said]]~~ the predetermined time function and

[[said]] the predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when the period between the real-time conclusion of one [[said]] clip and the real-time commencement of the following [[said]] clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

65. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 63 wherein [[said]] the further data comprises user provided data.

66. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 63 wherein [[said]] the further data comprises generated data formed by ~~analysing~~ analyzing the corresponding [[said]] clip and said examining means examines [[said]] the data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, [[said]] the title components collectively forming [[said]] the insert title.

67. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 66 wherein [[said]] the title components are selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, [[said]] the title components being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of [[said]] the data.

68. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 67 wherein [[said]] the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to [[said]] the title components to modify a visual impact of [[said]] the insert title.

69. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 66 wherein the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in the insert title.

70. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 63 wherein the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of the insert title upon the clip.

71. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the one template is selected from a plurality of templates each comprising different combinations of editing rules.